

Fact Sheet

LOOP 202

South Mountain
Freeway Study

Introduction

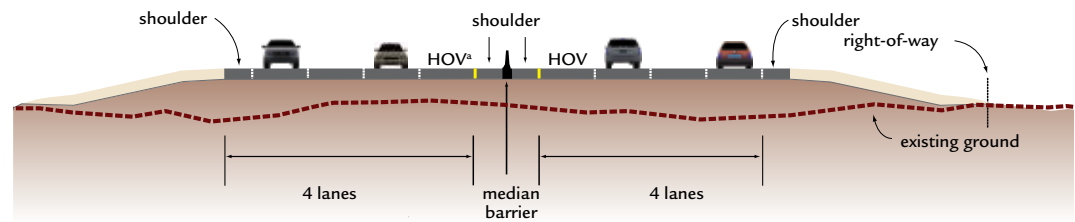
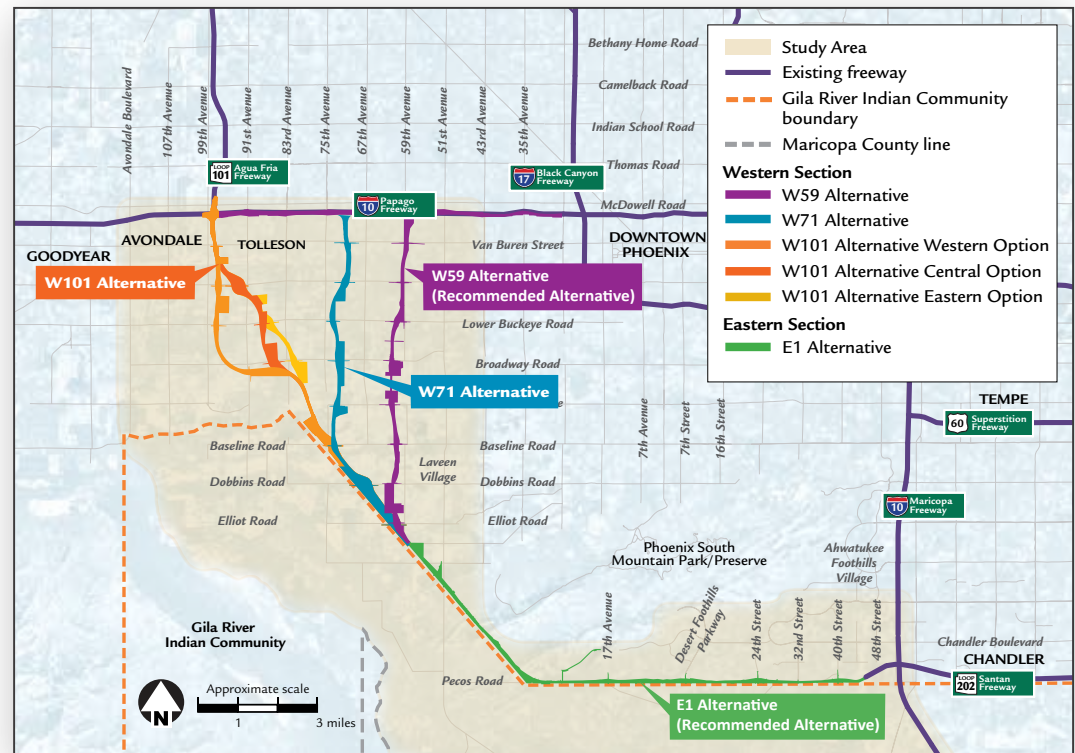
The proposed Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway has been a critical part of the Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) Regional Freeway Program since it was first included in funding approved by Maricopa County voters in 1985. It was also part of the *Regional Transportation Plan* funding passed by Maricopa County voters in 2004 through Proposition 400. The proposed freeway is a key component of the region's adopted multimodal transportation plan and the Regional Freeway and Highway System and is the last piece to complete the Loop 202 system.

Additionally, the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway provides an important link between the southeast and southwest areas of the Valley and an alternative route to Interstate 10. Traffic volumes for the proposed freeway are expected to be in the range of 137,000 to 142,000 vehicles per day by 2030, which is comparable to current use on the Loop 101 and existing segments of Loop 202. The analysis of travel patterns shows the demand for the freeway consists of mostly regional traffic, not traffic moving through metro Phoenix.

Where will the Freeway be Located?

The proposed freeway is broken up into two segments, an eastern section and a western section. The eastern section connects to I-10 adjacent to the current Loop 202 Santan Freeway, and the western section veers north to connect the freeway loop to I-10. For the eastern section, the proposed alignment follows Pecos Road. This alignment was first proposed in 1985 and affirmed in the 1988 Environmental Assessment. For the western section, the proposed freeway alignment is called the "W59 Alternative," which provides a north-south connection of the South Mountain to I-10 near 59th Avenue. A "no build" option also is being evaluated, as required by federal law.

Alternatives studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement



The configuration of the freeway is anticipated to be eight lanes (three general-purpose lanes and one high occupancy vehicle lane in each direction).

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What is the Current Status?

The Arizona Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have finalized a detailed evaluation of the proposed Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway through the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or "Draft EIS." Under federal law, the Draft EIS must address 26 factors outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. These factors cover the entire range of environmental study, including impacts on South Mountain, wildlife, air quality, storm-water drainage, and neighborhoods.

How can the Public be Involved?

The Draft EIS is available for a 90-day public review and comment period, starting **April 26, 2013**, and ending on **July 24, 2013**. During this review and comment period, the document is available online (azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway) and at public locations such as public libraries and community locations. A full listing of these locations is available on the study website.

Formal Public Hearing Comment Process

Note that the public hearing provides the only opportunity for members of the public to make comments on the Draft EIS in front of a study team panel (within a three-minute time limit). Court reporters will also be available to take individual verbal comments; comments provided to a court reporter are not subject to the three-minute limit. Comment forms will be available for written comments.

Online Public Hearing

All of the materials presented at the public hearing, including a study video and comment forms, will be available from May 21, 2013 to July 24, 2013 at azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway.


There are several opportunities for the public to provide comments on the Draft EIS. All comment methods are considered equal.

Community Forums

Community forums will be held at various locations in the study area after the public hearing. Technical staff will be at the forums to answer questions, and study materials, including the study video, will be available to view. Court reporters will be available to take individual verbal comments. Written comments can also be submitted, but no formal "hearing" will occur at these community forum meetings. Forum locations will be posted at azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway, emailed to the e-newsletter subscribers, and published in the newspaper and local publications.

Mail, E-mail, Phone

At anytime during the 90-day comment period, comments can be provided in the following methods:

 **ADOT Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway Study**
1655 W. Jackson Street
MD 126F
Phoenix, Arizona, 85007

 projects@azdot.gov

 602.712.7006

 azdot.gov/SouthMountainFreeway

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Phoenix Convention Center, North Ballroom

100 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85004

Validated parking and transit vouchers will be provided.

Public Comment Needed Here!



Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments on the Draft and Final EIS.

When Would the Freeway be Built?

If the outcome of the study is a build alternative, then the timing of construction will depend upon the completion of final design, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocation. A corridor implementation plan developed by ADOT will identify how to construct the overall project, including the length and sequence of construction segments. The current Regional Freeway and Highway Program identifies construction funding for the freeway to begin in fiscal year 2015.